



# MONTANA HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS NOTICE

March 21, 2023

## All Providers

**Effective May 12, 2023**

**End of the Public Health Emergency (PHE)**

### **Reinstatement of the Primary Care Provider Referral for Passport**

On February 9, 2023, the State of Montana received notice from the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) would be extended for 90 days. Additionally, the Secretary noted that based on current trends regarding COVID-19, HHS is planning for this to be the final renewal and that the PHE will end on May 11, 2023.

Effective May 12, 2023, with the end of the PHE, the Montana Medicaid suspension of the primary care provider (PCP) referral requirements for applicable Montana Medicaid covered services will be reinstated. Montana Medicaid members enrolled in a Primary Care Case Management (PCCM) program will be required to obtain referral to receive services from a provider who is not their PCP for dates of service starting May 12, 2023. Montana Medicaid PCCM programs include Passport to Health (Passport), Team Care, Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) and Comprehensive Primary Care Plus (CPC+).

All other PCCM program requirements that were not suspended will also remain in place in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana ([ARM 37.86.5101–5120](#), [ARM 37.86.5303](#), and [ARM 37.86.5201–5206](#)), the Passport to Health and Team Care Agreement, the PCMH and CPC+ contracts, and the [Passport to Health Manual](#). Member attribution and reimbursement will continue unchanged.

Keep in mind that there may be Montana Medicaid members assigned to your practice that have not been seen during the PHE. They will need referrals to services after the PHE ends, and it may be a few months before you can schedule visits with these members or help them transfer to another PCP. Please give these members some referral flexibility in the interim.

#### **Health Resources Division (HRD) Webinar**

Please join HRD for a webinar intended for PCPs and providers who receive Passport referrals for members.

The following topics will be covered:

- Passport to Health Program PHE Flexibilities
- General Review of the Passport to Health Program

The HRD webinar will be held:

- April 10 at 11:00 am-12:00 pm

[Join the HRD webinar by using this link to the Teams meeting.](#)

## Contact and Website Information

If you have any questions regarding this provider notice, please contact Liz LeLacheur, Montana Healthcare Programs Medical Home Program Officer, at (406) 444-0991 or [ELeLacheur@mt.gov](mailto:ELeLacheur@mt.gov) or the Conduent Passport Provider Analyst at (406) 457-9542.

For claims questions or additional information, contact Montana Provider Relations at (800) 624-3958 or (406) 442-1837 or email [Montana Provider Relations Helpdesk](#).

Visit the [Montana Healthcare Programs Provider Information website](#) to access your provider type page. Choose Resources by Provider Type in the left-hand menu.